

Maurice Hinchey NEWS

26TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW YORK

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 2, 2001

Contact: Kevin O'Connell
202-225-6335

MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION AWARDED \$150,000

WASHINGTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (NY-26) today announced that the Mental Health Association of the Southern Tier, Inc. has been awarded a grant of \$150,000 by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. MHA of the Southern Tier will use this Community Action Grant to study the feasibility of replicating a service program that was developed in Orange County, New York.

"Seeking out successful models to imitate is a very smart thing to do," said Hinchey. "I'm particularly proud to see two groups from different parts of the area I represent sharing ideas that work."

MHA of the Southern Tier will be exploring the feasibility of replicating the Invisible Children's Program of Orange County. The mission of the Invisible Children's Program is to empower parents diagnosed with mental illness to be the best possible parents and to maintain the highest possible level of family functioning.

The decision on whether to implement such a program for the Southern Tier will be made following a consensus-building process that will include visits from a training team from the Mental Health Association of Orange County and researchers from the University of Massachusetts Medical School's Center for Mental Health Services Research. The process will also include regular meetings of mental health professionals, parents, and consumers of mental health services in Broome County. A team of professors from Binghamton University will assist with facilitation and evaluation activities.

"The Mental Health Association of the Southern Tier has long recognized the need for community-based case management services to children and families in which a parent has a mental illness," said Casey Epe, Executive Director of MHA of the Southern Tier. "We are delighted to learn that we have received a Community Action Grant."